

Wellington Archdiocese Catholic Housing Forum: Local Government Elections Plan 2025 for Homelessness

In New Zealand, central government is responsible for homelessness with local government (councils) playing a supportive and facilitative role.

The purpose of this document is to inform the reader about:

1. How councils in Wellington (excluding Wairarapa) are addressing homelessness today (also refer to Appendix 1) and
2. With the local election this year (11 October 2025) how do candidates for mayor propose to address homelessness in the future.

For number 1, information in this document is sourced directly from the councils' websites and meetings. It excludes councils based in the Wairarapa district.

For number 2, information in this document is sourced from an emailed response and phone calls from the mayoral candidate.

Hutt City Council (HCC)

1. How is the council addressing homelessness today?

HCC Strategy – Long Term Plan:

The HCC Long-Term Plan 2021 to 2031 includes the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Homelessness Strategy that was a three-year strategy from 2019 to 2022 but is continuing with the vision to *“Work together to end homelessness. Ending homelessness doesn’t mean no-one will lose their home again. It means that we have a response in place to prevent homelessness whenever possible and that if homelessness occurs, it is rare, brief, and non-recurring.”*

Rautaki Whakatipu Sustainable Growth Strategy 2025-2055 addresses housing conditions and affordability concerns that can cause homelessness but focusses more on urban planning, infrastructure, transport, and environmental resilience and not emergency shelters or wrap-around services.

HCC Operationally – Current Work:

Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Homelessness Strategy continues to be supported via the Long-Term Plan with \$800,000 per year distributing funds to key community partners Takiri Mai te Ata Whānau Ora Collective, Tautahi Centre, and Community Law Hutt Valley resulting in families gaining stable tenancies.

Strong partnerships with central government, mana whenua, housing providers, and social service organisations continue to support the strategies in place.

HCC Reporting on Homelessness:

In May 2025, HCC launched the Homelessness and Housing Dashboard (a report showing key information all on one page!) to track trends in housing stress, deprivation (people lacking basic human needs like housing, food, warmth, clothes), rough sleeping, and Transitional Housing (temporary housing for up to 12-weeks where rent is subsidised by the government and organised by Work and Income, Ministry of Social Development and/or other community support services).

2. With the local election this year, how do the mayoral candidates propose to address homelessness into the future?

HCC Mayoral Candidates:

Brady Dyer states (email sent 16 July 2025, response 16 July 2025): *“There is room in the budget for continued action. Through the Long-Term Plan 2021-2031 we have set aside \$800,000 each year for homelessness initiatives, and that figure is locked in unless a future Council decides to change it.*

That funding is passed straight to three community partners who specialise in preventing and alleviating homelessness:

- **Tākiri Mai te Ata Whānau Ora Collective** delivers early intervention and wrap-around support so households stay housed before a crisis develops.
- **Tuatahi Centre** helps whānau move into secure, long-term accommodation and works with them on plans that keep them housed.
- **Community Law Hutt Valley** offers free legal advice and advocacy on tenancy issues, repairs, rent arrears and evictions, protecting people’s rights and preventing avoidable loss of housing.

Alongside the funding, Council staff work every day with mana whenua, Kāinga Ora, the Ministry of Social Development, housing providers and social services. Together we:

- *map and respond to rough-sleeping hotspots,*
- *advocate for more public and affordable housing in the Hutt,*
- *support new developments by providing infrastructure and consenting advice,*
- *share up-to-date information through the Dashboard so everyone can see where need is greatest and which interventions are working.*

Council funding alone will not solve homelessness, because many of the underlying drivers—housing costs, incomes and national policy—sit outside our control. That is why partnership is at the heart of our Homelessness Strategy. Over the coming year we will refresh the Strategy with mana whenua and community partners, review the effectiveness of current grants and continue pressing central government for increased

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housing supply and sustainable funding for frontline services. The new dashboard will be super valuable in shaping this work.”

Karen Morgan states (email sent 16 July 2025, response 20 July 2025): “It would be great if we could have a conversation in the week.02xxxxxx

As I come from an education career, people and wellbeing are a critical space for me. Particularly social cohesion and ensuring a connected community that is inclusive and collectively does the best we can for all.

I hope we can chat in the weekbut please seems website for more information about me and my why.”

On 5 August 2025, Karen Morgan telephoned to confirm that she acknowledges the very real challenges especially with families she met during her time as a school principal. She wants HCC to keep working with community organisations to help with the homelessness in her area.

Prabha Ravi states (email sent 16 July 2025, response 20 July 2025): “As Mayor, I believe the Council must take an active role in understanding the underlying reasons why individuals are homeless. This means working closely with MSD and other relevant government agencies to assess individual circumstances, verify their details, and support pathways back into safe, stable housing.

We must also ensure strong connections with community organisations such as the Foodbank, City Mission, and other local support services to provide wraparound care including food, health, and social support, so people are not left behind.

Homelessness is not a one-agency issue. It takes all of us working together namely Council, government, and community—to restore dignity and offer real solutions.”

Ken Laban: email sent 16 July 2025 - no response given.

Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC)

1. How is the council addressing homelessness today?

UHCC Strategy – Long Term Plan:

Building on the July 2020 Upper Hutt Affordable Housing Strategy, outcomes are ongoing and include forming the Upper Hutt Housing Network (government agencies, local marae, Upper Hutt Rough Sleeping Group, Upper Hutt Housing Trust). The 360-page 2024-34 Long-Term Plan does not address homelessness.

UHCC Operationally – Current Work:

Community Kōrero is held every 3 months (last held 16 April 2025).

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UHCC work with government agencies for housing and wrap around services.

UHCC identify 11 people who are the typical rough sleepers.

UHCC are willing to work with any group who can help them but is careful not to exhaust too many of their limited resources for this cause.

UHCC Reporting on Homelessness:

There is no formal reporting for the Upper Hutt Affordable Housing Strategy results.

Homelessness reporting is difficult with different variables for each case i.e. not everyone has the same story or the willingness to share it.

The last UHCC update on homelessness was the City Services Committee hui (26 March 2025) where the Community Partnerships Manager had answered “*questions about the young women and girls project, rough sleepers*”.

2. With the local election this year, how do the mayoral candidates propose to address homelessness into the future?

UHCC Mayoral Candidates:

Hellen Swales states (email sent 16 July 2025, response 20 July 2025): “*You’re correct—there is no specific line item or budget allocated for homelessness in the Long Term Plan. However, our Community Services team actively participates in monthly external network meetings where homelessness is a standing agenda item. Officers also engage regularly with the Police and the Upper Hutt Housing Trust to stay informed.*

As a Council, we receive regular updates on the situation. At present, we are aware of approximately 11 individuals experiencing homelessness in Upper Hutt. It’s important to note that not all of them are seeking to be housed.

While the Central Government has removed the four well-being from our legislative mandate, that will not stop me from engaging in conversations or actions that affect the most vulnerable members of our community. “

Wayne Guppy (current mayor) states (email sent 16 July 2025, response 21 July 2025): “*Thanks Lei for your email. I will continue as I have in the past to work with our staff who work closely with a number of agencies both in the Public and private sector to help those who are homeless. Council as recently as the last week or so in conjunction with a not for profit organisation homes several people. As Mayor I will continue also to lobby Central Governemt to make sure more is done to help these people. I am happy to discuss further is you wish. My number is 02xxxxxxx”*

Peri Zee states (email sent 16 July 2025, response 25 July 2025): “*I’ve heard from several of our social service providers, like Vibe and Women’s Centre, that homelessness is a growing concern. We have comparatively few social houses in Upper Hutt, so the waitlist is long for social housing.*

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If I'm elected, I'll ask the Council to review their land holdings to see if there's underutilised land that could be used for social housing in partnership with community housing providers (with funding from the government). In addition, I'll advocate to the government for additional Kainga Ora development here - although you'll be aware that this government is cutting Kainga Ora development everywhere.

It's a tricky long-term issue, but we need to all be working together to reduce homelessness and housing costs."

Blair Griffiths: email sent 28 July 2025 - no response given.

Wellington City Council (WCC)

1. How is the council addressing homelessness today?

WCC Strategy – Long Term Plan:

Building on previous work from the Te Mahana 2014 to 2020 Plan.

New plan is the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan that includes the City Safety and Wellbeing 3-Year Plan with 5 major goals:

1. Enhancing City Safety
2. Strengthening our Community's Approach to Homelessness
3. Supporting a Safe Night Life
4. Moving Forward in an Integrated and Enduring Way
5. Our Regulatory Framework

Goal 2 is designed to:

- Move beyond strategy to practical solutions
- Make homelessness "*rare, brief, and non-recurring*"

WCC Operationally – Current Work:

In June 2025 WCC launched the new street-based Urban Liaison Officers who are to proactively approach community safety by connecting with hospitality, businesses, assisting people experiencing homelessness, and being a friendly face for anyone requiring assistance in the city.

The "*Cohort of 30*" are identified as 30 individuals needing the most intensive support.

In June 2025, WCC confirmed \$460,000 to support rough sleepers.

WCC will continue to collaborate with partners Wellington City Missions, He Herenga Kura, and Downtown Community Ministry.

"Wellington City Council remains deeply committed to addressing homelessness through a coordinated, compassionate, and evidence-informed approach. By working closely with our partners, leveraging real-time insights, and advocating for systemic change, we aim to ensure that all members of our community – especially our most vulnerable – are supported with dignity and care. "

WCC Reporting on Homelessness:

WCC capture data through a range of sources, including reporting from their funded partners, internal data collection, and publicly available data-sets (information collected and organised in ways that help understand things) from central government. By comparing the data-sets, WCC can respond to shifting factors contributing to homelessness.

2. With the local election this year, how do the mayoral candidates propose to address homelessness into the future?

WCC Mayoral Candidates:

Ray Chung states (email sent 21 July 2025, response 21 July 2025): *“Many thanks for this! Indeed, this is an issue that’s at the forefront of my mind! I take the bus into work daily and get off at Manners Street and walk to the office on Lambton Quay so that I can talk with these rough sleepers to try to understand their issues.*

We have a \$40 million budget to try to resolve this issue and also to keep the city safe.

We also finance DCM, the Salvation Army, Wellington City Mission and other groups to enhance their capabilities to help and provide accommodation to these folks.

I was at the Whakamaru, Wellington City Mission talking with Murray Eldridge and his staff about this only two weeks ago.

Any ideas you may have are very welcome and please contact me.”

Karl Tiefenbacher states (email sent 21 July 2025, response 26 July 2025): *“There is room in the budget to help with homelessness and there needs to be even more work done in unison with central government.*

Solving this issues is one of the key things to getting the vibrancy back to the city.”

Joan Shi states (email sent 3 August 2025, response 4 August 2025): *“Thank you for reaching out to me. From what I’ve heard - particularly in this article: <https://wellington.scoop.co.nz/?p=169689> - it has prompted me to reflect on the issue of social housing (managed by WCC) and state housing (managed by central government), which I believe are closely related to homelessness. In my view, WCC currently lacks the capacity to manage social housing effectively, as this responsibility is more appropriately handled by the central government.*

If I am elected, I would advocate for the central government to take back responsibility for the housing portfolio currently held by WCC. This would allow the council to focus on its core responsibilities: water, waste management, libraries, parks, swimming pools, public transport, and other essential services.

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If the central government is unwilling to take over social housing - either by managing it directly or by providing adequate funding or a share of GST revenue - I would consider, in the long term, selling the council-owned social housing properties in the CBD. The intention would be to reinvest in new housing developments on more affordable land in areas like Upper Hutt or Lower Hutt, which still have access to public transport. This would also allow high-value CBD land to be repurposed for other needs.

I've also reviewed the three initiatives you mentioned in your email: the Te Mahana strategy, the Urban Liaison Officers, and the Rough Sleepers work. They seem appropriate to me at this stage, as I believe these programmes play a valuable role in identifying and supporting individuals in need - whether with food, accommodation, or other services.

Feel free to ask questions if you have any. “

Rob Goulden: email sent 21 July 2025 – no response given.

Diane Calvert email sent 21 July 2025 – no response given.

Andrew Little email sent 21 July 2025 – no response given.

Kelvin Hastie email sent 3 August 2025 – no response given

Donald McDonald email sent 3 August 2025 – no response given

William Pennywise – email not listed

Donald McDonald – email not listed

Scott Caldwell – email not listed

Porirua City Council (PCC)

1. How is the council addressing homelessness today?

PCC Strategy – Long Term Plan:

Te Rā Nui (Eastern Porirua Development), launched in 2018, is a 20 to 25 year regeneration strategy that aims to deliver 2,000 new homes, 2,000 existing homes' upgraded, revitalising parks, streetscapes and town centres partnering with central

government (Kāinga Ora, Housing and Urban Development), Ngāti Toa Rangatira and the community.

Housing and Planning Policy (2022) commits to “*Develop a plan for the city to combat homelessness*”, advocating for increased social housing, inclusionary zoning, and providing land for a tiny-home park.

The Strategy Priorities 2024-34 aims to create “*thriving communities where everyone can be safe and healthy – at home, work or play*” endorsing partnership with Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

Ongoing partnerships with Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Kāinga Ora ensuring iwi involvement and reinforcement of social and cultural cohesion.

PCC Operationally – Current Work:

In February 2024 the council partnered with Orange Sky Aotearoa and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira delivering free laundry and showers every Monday to Porirua CBD – although, this has temporarily paused.

PCC set up a contact centre and an Antenno APP so residents can report people sleeping rough and PCC coordinates with support agencies to provide assistance.

Participation in Welcoming Communities ensures support for migrants and newcomers – promoting inclusivity and access to housing services.

The “*Need a Helping Hand*” guide connects people to services for “*food, housing, health, youth, financial aid, and Rainbow support*”.

PCC Reporting on Homelessness:

PCC produce the annual Housing Demand, Affordability & Need Report, starting from 2016, covering housing pressures and homelessness risk, with attention on Eastern Porirua provided to internal stakeholders as well as central government.

As part of the Long-Term Eastern Porirua regeneration plan, an Outcomes Reporting released every 2 years tracks community well-being - which includes housing access and homelessness risks.

2. With the local election this year, how do the mayoral candidates propose to address homelessness into the future?

PCC Mayoral Candidates:

Anita Baker (current mayor) states (email sent 16 July 2025, response 17 July 2025): “*In Porirua we do a small amount to support government agencies like Kainga Ora, Ministry of Social Development, Police and community organisations to do their work with*

homeless. We will continue to support where we can, but we do not have budgets for homelessness.”

Kathleen Filo email sent 28 July 2025 – no response given.

Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC)

1. How is the council addressing homelessness today?

KCDC Strategy – Long Term Plan:

KCDC does not have a strategy for homelessness but a Housing Strategy 2022 that includes partnering with iwi, central government, developers, community providers and community.

A Housing Needs Assessment reveals growing affordability issues with over 15,000 additional housing needed by 2051 is needed to meet a projected 32,000 increase in population which could result in a homelessness issue in the future. Currently homelessness is not visibly evident in the region.

KCDC Operationally – Current Work:

KCDC owns 118 units for older residents, but they have limited accessibility and sustainability and are planning to transfer the management to a community housing provider.

KCDC funding discussions with central government are underway to enable access to income-related rent subsidies.

KCDC supports providers to establish Transitional Housing and provides guides to access support services from MSD, foodbanks, Salvation Army, Age Concern, and Ātiawa Trust.

KCDC Reporting on Homelessness:

KCDC has no formal reporting on homelessness. However, homelessness-related data is embedded annually in the Housing Strategy 2022 updates, Needs Assessments, Long-Term Plan monitoring, and coordination with agencies.

2. With the local election this year, how do the mayoral candidates propose to address homelessness into the future?

KCDC Mayoral Candidates:

Janet Holborow (current mayor) states (email sent 17 July 2025, response 18 July 2025):
“We are definitely aware of this issue, as we carried out a Housing Needs Assessment and have developed a Housing Strategy. We have also formed a Trust which will be delivering houses in the future (the first development is under way in Ōtaki). As well as

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that, we work closely with Kainga Ora to make sure that locals have access to their houses as a matter of priority.

All of this while we have a government telling us that we need to only focus on pipes and roads! Please do consider getting in touch with your local MP or a Minister and letting them know that you want us to do this work!"

Liz Koh states (email sent 17 July 2025, response 17 July 2025): *"Kapiti Coast District Council has established a trust - Kapiti Housing Solutions - to provide affordable housing options in Kapiti. This trust has iwi representation. By operating as a trust, there is access to funding from sources other than Council, but Council has offered support to date by making land available. Future support from Council has yet to be determined. There are potential other partners such as iwi, charitable trusts and private developers. Council continues to monitor homelessness in the district."*

APPENDIX 1:

How Councils in Wellington are Addressing Homelessness (excluding Wairarapa)

REGION	Hutt City	Upper Hutt City	Wellington City	Porirua City	Kapiti Coast District
Strategy – Long Term Plan	The HCC Long-Term Plan 2021 to 2031 includes the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Homelessness Strategy that was a three-year strategy from 2019 to 2022 but is continuing with the vision to “ <i>Work together to end homelessness. Ending homelessness doesn’t mean no-one will lose their home again. It means that we have a response in place to prevent homelessness whenever possible and that if homelessness occurs, it is rare, brief, and non-recurring.</i> ”	Building on the July 2020 Upper Hutt Affordable Housing Strategy, outcomes are ongoing and include forming the Upper Hutt Housing Network (government agencies, local marae, Upper Hutt Rough Sleeping Group, Upper Hutt Housing Trust). The 360-page 2024-34 Long-Term Plan does not address homelessness.	Building on previous work from the Te Mahana 2014 to 2020 Plan. New plan is the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan that includes the City Safety and Wellbeing 3-Year Plan with 5 major goals: 1. Enhancing City Safety 2. Strengthening our Community’s Approach to Homelessness 3. Supporting a Safe Night Life 4. Moving Forward in an Integrated and Enduring Way 5. Our Regulatory Framework Goal 2 is designed to:	Te Rā Nui (Eastern Porirua Development), launched in 2018, is a 20 to 25 year regeneration strategy that aims to deliver 2,000 new homes, 2,000 existing homes’ upgraded, revitalising parks, streetscapes and town centres partnering with central government (Kāinga Ora, Housing and Urban Development), Ngāti Toa Rangatira and the community. Housing and Planning Policy (2022) commits to “ <i>Develop a plan for the city to combat homelessness</i> ”, advocating for increased social	KCDC does not have a strategy for homelessness but a Housing Strategy 2022 that includes partnering with iwi, central government, developers, community providers and community. A Housing Needs Assessment reveals growing affordability issues with over 15,000 additional housing needed by 2051 is needed to meet a projected 32,000 increase in population which could result in a homelessness issue in the future. Currently homelessness is not

	Rautaki Whakatipu Sustainable Growth Strategy 2025-2055 addresses housing conditions and affordability concerns that can cause homelessness but focusses more on urban planning, infrastructure, transport, and environmental resilience and not emergency shelters or wrap-around services.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move beyond strategy to practical solutions • Make homelessness “rare, brief, and non-recurring” 	<p>housing, inclusionary zoning, and providing land for a tiny-home park.</p> <p>The Strategy Priorities 2024-34 aims to create “thriving communities where everyone can be safe and healthy – at home, work or play” endorsing partnership with Ngāti Toa Ranagtira.</p> <p>Ongoing partnerships with Ngāti Toa Ranagira and Kāinga Ora ensuring iwi involvement and reinforcement of social and cultural cohesion.</p>	visibly evident in the region.
Operationally – Current Work	Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Homelessness Strategy continues to be supported via the Long-Term Plan with \$800,000 per year distributing funds to key community partners Takiri Mai te	Community Kōrero is held every 3 months (last held 16 April 2025). UHCC work with government agencies for housing and wrap around services.	In June 2025 WCC launched the new street-based Urban Liaison Officers who are to proactively approach community safety by connecting with hospitality, businesses, assisting	In February 2024 the council partnered with Orange Sky Aotearoa and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira delivering free laundry and showers every Monday to Porirua CBD –	KCDC owns 118 units for older residents, but they have limited accessibility and sustainability and are planning to transfer the management to a community housing provider.

	<p>Ata Whānau Ora Collective, Tautahi Centre, and Community Law Hutt Valley resulting in families gaining stable tenancies. Strong partnerships with central government, mana whenua, housing providers, and social service organisations continue to support the strategies in place.</p>	<p>UHCC identify 11 people who are the typical rough sleepers. UHCC are willing to work with any group who can help them but is careful not to exhaust too many of their limited resources for this cause.</p>	<p>people experiencing homelessness, and being a friendly face for anyone requiring assistance in the city. The “<i>Cohort of 30</i>” are identified as 30 individuals needing the most intensive support. In June 2025, WCC confirmed \$460,000 to support rough sleepers. WCC will continue to collaborate with partners Wellington City Missions, He Herenga Kura, and Downtown Community Ministry. <i>“Wellington City Council remains deeply committed to addressing homelessness through a coordinated, compassionate, and evidence-informed approach. By working closely with our</i></p>	<p>although, this has temporarily paused. PCC set up a contact centre and an Antenno APP so residents can report people sleeping rough and PCC coordinates with support agencies to provide assistance. Participation in Welcoming Communities ensures support for migrants and newcomers – promoting inclusivity and access to housing services. The “<i>Need a Helping Hand</i>” guide connects people to services for “<i>food, housing, health, youth, financial aid, and Rainbow support</i>”.</p>	<p>KCDC funding discussions with central government are underway to enable access to income-related rent subsidies. KCDC supports providers to establish Transitional Housing and provides guides to access support services from MSD, foodbanks, Salvation Army, Age Concern, and Ātiawa Trust.</p>
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			<i>partners, leveraging real-time insights, and advocating for systemic change, we aim to ensure that all members of our community – especially our most vulnerable – are supported with dignity and care. “</i>		
Reporting on Homelessness	In May 2025, HCC launched the Homelessness and Housing Dashboard (a report showing key information all on one page!) to track trends in housing stress, deprivation (people lacking basic human needs like housing, food, warmth, clothes), rough sleeping, and Transitional Housing (temporary housing for up to 12-weeks where rent is subsidised by the	There is no formal reporting for the Upper Hutt Affordable Housing Strategy results. Homelessness reporting is difficult with different variables for each case i.e. not everyone has the same story or the willingness to share it. The last UHCC update on homelessness was the City Services Committee hui (26 March 2025) where	WCC capture data through a range of sources, including reporting from their funded partners, internal data collection, and publicly available data-sets (information collected and organised in ways that help understand things) from central government. By comparing the data-sets, WCC can respond to shifting factors contributing to homelessness.	PCC produce the annual Housing Demand, Affordability & Need Report, starting from 2016, covering housing pressures and homelessness risk, with attention on Eastern Porirua provided to internal stakeholders as well as central government. As part of the Long-Term Eastern Porirua regeneration plan, an Outcomes Reporting released every 2 years tracks community well-being - which includes	KCDC has no formal reporting on homelessness. However, homelessness-related data is embedded annually in the Housing Strategy 2022 updates, Needs Assessments, Long-Term Plan monitoring, and coordination with agencies.

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	government and organised by Work and Income, Ministry of Social Development and/or other community support services).	the Community Partnerships Manager had answered <i>“questions about the young women and girls project, rough sleepers”</i> .		housing access and homelessness risks.	
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